(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Sports Policy is adrift, with no accountability" published in the "Times of India", dated 19.11.96.

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the States and Union Territories and other organisations that have failed to fully utilise the funds given to them for the promotion of games and sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item deals generally with the alleged ills of sports management in the country.

(c) The Govt. is aware of the need to have accountability in sports management and co-ordinated approach by all Sports Developmental agencies. There is already a proposal to reformulate the existing National Sports Policy to make it result oriented.

(d) Sports is on the State list and as such funds for development of sports, in general, are provided by the State Govts. themselves. The Central Government, however, gives matching financial assistance to States/UTs for creation of Sports infrastructure. The first instalment of the Central Share amounting to 90% of the approved Central assistance is released only after the States/ UTs have already incurred expenditure to the extent of there own share and the remaining 10% is released on completion of the project thus ensuring proper utilisation of the Central assistance.

Newsitem captioned "Gangotri is receding"

2264. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in "The Hindustan Times" dated 10th November, 1996 under the caption "Gangotri is receding" wherein it has been stated that if the global temperature increase of 0.5 degrees C stabilises, the Gangotri glacier will recede further and there will be less water;

(b) whether Government are aware that the tourism and the dhabas are also responsible for polluting the climate and increasing heat; and

(c) if so, the measures Government proposes to take to restrict tourism around Gangotri?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Second Assessment Report entitled "Climate Change 1995—Impacts, Adaptations and Mitigation of Climate Change" brought out by the Inter-Govermental Panel on Climate Change, vulnerability of most mountain regions to a warmer climate is projected. There are, however, uncertainties associated with the projections on the regional impacts due to poor data coverage.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the environmental concerns and has supported conservation activities in the Gangotri region for setting up of nurseries, plantation of trees, dhaba (lodge) modernisation, establishment of community toilets, removal of garbage etc. The Deptt. of Tourism has constituted a Himalayan Tourism Advisory Board (HIMTAB) which has evolved guidelines for developing ecotourism.

आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान कृषि-उत्पादन में वृद्धि

2265. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान कृषि-उत्पादन में वृद्धि की वार्षिक-दर का अनुमान लगाया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कृषि उत्पादन की वृद्धि दर के कम होने के कारण कृषि उत्पादों की उत्पादन लागत में वृद्धि हुई है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;